GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2523
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002
WORKSHOP ON ITPA
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a day-long work shop on 'Immoral Traffic Prevention Act' (ITPA)-1956 was organized at Hyderabadduring February, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held there;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up a coordination committee consisting of several Government agencies and non-Governmental organizations concerned for the purpose to rescue and rehabilitate female commercial sex workers in the State; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Workshop, several vital issues concerning immoral trafficking in women and children were discussed. Another aspect of the discussion was on the punishment and penalties provided in the ITPA and it was held that the existing punishment provided in the Act is not commensurate with the offences. In the Workshop the following issues were also discussed:

(i) there should be a law enforcement agency in the State exclusively to tackle this menace.

(ii) the need for creation of an inter-state coordination cell for prevention of inter-state border offences for areas like Delhi, UP, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Goa.

(iii) it was urged that there is need for greater public awareness on this issue and the media should be taken into confidence for creating awareness regarding the social problems of victims in this area.

(iv) that for the women in difficult circumstances, allocation of funds from 3% to 5% from the Ministry of Rural Development at the District level for the welfare and rehabilitation of women in distress should be taken up.

(v) the NGOs' role in the sensitive areas was felt and it was held that there should be coordination and proper understanding for working on these issues.

(vi) it was emphasised that under the Central Government scheme of SWADHAR, a comprehensive schemefor the rehabilitation of the victims in the State not only under the ITPA but also for women in moral danger, victims of rape, cruelty etc. should be taken up.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has constituteda State Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary for taking up steps for the prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of child and women victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The Committee consists of representatives from ten Government Departments and two NGOs as members.